



### a note from deb

A look back at 2017 reveals a productive year.

Working with the new administration,
Congress has had the opportunity to pursue
priorities that will secure a brighter and more
prosperous future for the American people.
Rebuilding our military, keeping our
communities safe, strengthening the nation's
infrastructure, and promoting American
innovation are among these goals.

Through patience, tenacity, and hard work, we've been able to move important policy changes across the finish line. I'm proud of the accomplishments so far in a variety of areas, including passing the first tax reform bill in 3 I years, confirming Justice Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court, and creating the first-ever U.S. national paid family leave policy. We also had success fighting burdensome federal regulations that are adversely impacting our families and communities.

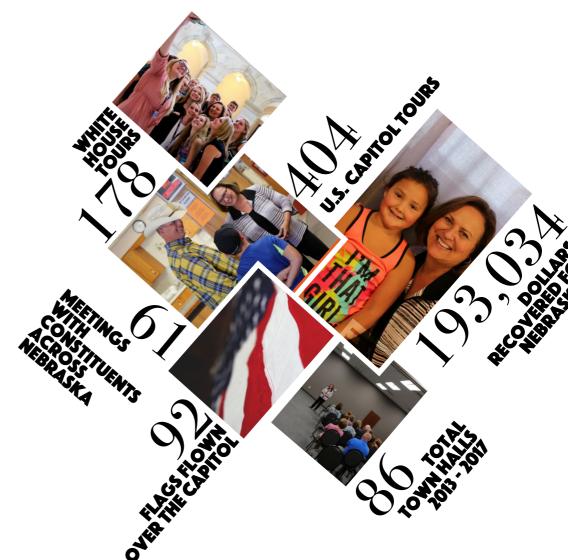
Still, there's more work to accomplish. I look forward to continuing to work together with the people of our state to achieve the meaningful results Nebraskans deserve.

Thank you for your continued participation and interest in our democratic process.



Det Tucker





### TEBRASKA BYTHE NUMBERS 2017

# INTO THE



### Secretary Sonny Perdue

### Secretary Elaine Chao

In May, my husband Bruce and I welcomed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to our family ranch, located south of Valentine. The secretary joined me in hosting a rancher-roundtable discussion with more than 60 of our friends and neighbors. The conversation focused on the challenges and opportunities ranchers are facing as they work to feed the world.

Secretary Perdue made clear that he understands the role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and how his agency must function to provide producers with certainty and access to foreign markets. Our job is to produce the food, and his goal is to sell it to the world. That's what I like to hear coming out of the USDA.

I'm pleased Secretary Perdue is committed to listening, acting, and standing up for rural America.









During the August state work period, I hosted Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao in Omaha. We heard from Nebraska transportation leaders in trucking, rail, aviation, government, and construction.

At a roundtable discussion, we explored several ideas to improve our nation's urban and rural transportation systems and infrastructure. Specifically, we discussed ways we can improve the regulatory process and move projects forward at a faster rate.

Secretary Chao saw firsthand how Nebraskans are at the forefront of moving people and goods across the country. I'm thankful for the secretary's time and willingness to travel to our great state, and I look forward to a continued collaboration on key transportation ideas.

### WELCOMING the Administration to Nebraska

### Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution entrusts members of the Senate with a responsibility vital to our democracy: providing

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### "EVERYONE IS EQUAL IN THE EYES OF THE LAW."

JUSTICE NEIL GORSUCH

### A GENERATIONAL SHIFT ON OUR NATION'S COURTS

In 2017, the Senate confirmed 12 judicial nominees for lifetime positions on our nation's circuit courts. This is the largest number of circuit court judges approved in the first year of a president's term since our country's courts were created. Seating these judges sets forth a historic generational shift in the federal judiciary. The American people will benefit from a more fully staffed judiciary, and the service of these strong jurists who uphold the rule of law and protect our constitutional rights.

In April, the Senate confirmed Judge Neil Gorsuch to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court. This is a lifetime apointment to our nation's highest court.

advice and consent on the

president's Supreme Court nominees. The significance of this task

cannot be overstated.

Justice Gorsuch has exemplary credentials, the right judicial temperament, and a solid commitment to the rule of law.

As a circuit court judge, he demonstrated he is well within the mainstream. Moreover, he promised to apply the law equally and fairly to all people.

### STANDING TALL

### STRENGTHENING OUR BORDERS TO KEEP NEBRASKA FAMILIES SAFE

Reintroduced Sarah's Law, named in honor of Sarah Root, a 21-year-old honor student killed last year by a drunk driver in Nebraska, who was illegally in the United States.

The bill strengthens current law to protect families by mandating that Immigration and Customs Enforcement detain illegal immigrants who have committed a crime causing bodily injury or death.

Urged the administration to set up a comprehensive system collecting biometric information from people who are entering and exiting the country, in order to better identify those entering unlawfully or overstaying visas.

In July, the Department of Homeland Security announced such an entry-exit screening system would be implemented starting by the end of 2017, and is expected to be completed within the next four years.

#### FIGHTING TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Took action against the unconscionable practice of human trafficking by cosponsoring the bipartisan Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA).

SESTA would ensure websites that knowingly expedite sex trafficking can be held accountable in violation of federal sex trafficking laws.

The bill was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee.

### PROMOTING NEBRASKA'S OUTDOOR RECREATION HERITAGE

Backed the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, which includes a broad array of bipartisan measures to enhance opportunities for hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

The bill would also improve access to public lands, reauthorize key conservation programs, and help boost the outdoor recreation economy.

Served as Vice Chair of Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus for the 115th congress.

### STANDING UP FOR PRO-LIFE POLICIES, SHOWING COMPASSION TO WOMEN AND UNBORN CHILDREN

Cosponsor of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

Bill prohibits abortions after 20 weeks, which is the point at which science tells us unborn children are capable of feeling pain.

This reasonable policy passed by a vote of 44 to 5 in the Nebraska Unicameral, and it should now be adopted at the federal level.

### FOR REBRASKA VALUES

### AGRICULTURE

### WITHDRAWING WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS)

Introduced a resolution with Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) that expresses a Sense of the Senate that the final rule expanding the definition of WOTUS must be withdrawn or vacated.

It also recognizes that the Clean Water Act (CWA) is critical to protecting water resources, but the final WOTUS rule goes too far, blatantly violating the original intent of the CWA.

In February 2017, joined President Donald J. Trump at the White House for the signing of an Executive Order to roll back the WOTUS rule.

### SECURING PROSPEROUS MARKETS FOR NEBRASKA PRODUCERS

South Korea is Nebraska's sixth largest agriculture trade partner and a major market for Nebraska pork, corn, ethanol, beef, and wheat – totaling a worth of \$400 million.

Sent a letter to President Donald J.Trump highlighting the success of the South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) and urging him not to terminate this hard-fought agreement.

• Met with South Korea's Trade Minister Kim Hyu-chong, to discuss the importance of KORUS and the strong strategic alliance between our two countries.

### A NEBRASKAN TO THE USDA

Recommended Gregory Ibach to serve as Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

President Trump followed through on the recommendation and nominated Greg Ibach in September 2017.

In October 2017, the Senate unanimously voted to confirm Greg lbach to serve at USDA.

### LIFTING BURDENS FOR NEBRASKA PRODUCERS

Reintroduced the Farmers
 Undertake Environmental Land
 Stewardship (FUELS) Act to provide regulatory relief for Nebraska farmers and ranchers who use on-farm fuel storage.

### LEADING THE FIGHT FOR RURAL AMERICA

 Committed to being a strong advocate for renewable fuels.

the administration works to implement the Renewable Fuel Standard.

### FEEDING A HUNGRY WORLD



# SECURING OUR NATION

#### ★ SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ★













### CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

JURISDICTION: NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE, NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAMS, AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS.

OVERSIGHT OF U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND (STRATCOM), WHICH IS LOCATED IN SARPY COUNTY.

#### STRENGTHENING OUR DEFENSES AGAINST THE RISING NORTH KOREAN THREAT

- Advanced efforts in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to strengthen missile defense, including authorizing additional \$4.4 billion in funding for missile defense activities and the deployment of up to 28 additional interceptors to defend the United States from ballistic missiles.

#### **REBUILDING THE MILITARY**

- Supported the FY 2018 NDAA, which authorized an additional \$26 billion in defense spending to restore military readiness, increase the size of our active-duty force, and continue to modernize our nuclear forces.

#### A PAY RAISE FOR OUR TROOPS

- Gave our men and women in uniform the biggest pay increase in eight years.

#### HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

- Introduced the Gold Star Family Support and Installation Access Act of 2017 in the Senate.
- The bill would increase support for Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in combat by creating a standardized policy so they can more easily access military facilities and certain benefits.

### SPENT THANKSGIVING WITH MEMBERS OF THE NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD AT GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF NEBRASKA'S NATIONAL GUARD

- Recognized the service and the sacrifice of Nebraska's National Guardsmen and women by welcoming over 60 Nebraska service members to Washington D.C. and honored their visit with a speech on the Senate floor.

#### PRIORITIZING CYBERSECURITY

-Wrote provisions to improve readiness and training for cyber forces, increased the resiliency of our weapons to cyberattack, and provided the first-ever evaluation of the military's cyber posture.

### MET WITH AIR FORCE SECRETARY HEATHER WILSON AT STRATCOM'S BIRTHDAY BALL

- Discussed Nebraska's role in the state of our Air Force, the progress of the new STRATCOM headquarters,

and the Offutt Air Force Base runway replacement.









## STRONG

### WHEN IT COMES TO EQUAL PAY, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The Workplace Advancement Act aims to empower employees, especially women, with information about wages so they can be informed advocates for their compensation.

Importantly for employers, the act would not impose new federal regulations, and no employer would be compelled to disclose salary information.

The bill simply prevents retaliatory action against employees who ask about how their compensation compares with their colleagues or peers.

\*WORKPLACE ADVANCEMENT ACT



EASING STRESS

FOR NEW MOMS

Reintroduced bipartisan legislation to help make life easier for nursing mothers when they are traveling in airports.

The bill, which passed the Senate Commerce Committee, would ensure nursing mothers traveling through large-and medium-sized airports have access to a clean and private breastfeeding room.

### #FAMILY FOCUSED SOLUTIONS



### FIRST U.S. NATIONAL LEAUE



11/23/2017

**POLICY** 

"In the end, it often comes down to a tug-of-war between what businesses can afford and the desire to ensure workers have the chance to provide for their family members, both financially and in person. A plan by Nebraska Sen. Deb Fischer...attempts to bridge this gap offering a tax credit to employers worth between an eighth and a quarter of wages paid to eligible workers during their absences."

"...Fischer has crafted a worthwhile endeavor on paid family leave that aims to address an age-old shortcoming for American workers."

- LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR EDITORIAL

Congress passed Senator Fischer's Strong Families Act to provide more flexibility for working families juggling responsibilities at home and in the workplace.

Worked with families and other stakeholders for four years to pass this historic provision.

> It encourages employers to offer workers up to 12 weeks of paid family leave with a tax incentive, avoiding the creation of government mandates or new federal programs.



# HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

### Providing Structure to a Flawed CFPB

Reintroduced the Consumer Financial Protection Board Act. This legislation would make changes to the structure of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

• This measure would increase transparency and accountability at the bureau by divesting the authority from one director to a five-member bipartisan board. This much-needed structural adjustment would reduce misconduct at the bureau and help encourage more Americans to build their own businesses and provide for their families.

#### Repealed Obama Administration Regulations Harming Nebraskans

Through 15 Congressional Review Act resolutions, Congress provided approximately \$36 billion in regulatory relief.

**Stopping Bonuses Awarded to Irresponsible Federal Employees** 

Reintroduced the bipartisan Stop Improper Federal Bonuses Act, with Senators Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.).

- Prohibits bonus pay for federal employees who commit major infractions under their agency's code of conduct or violate any law that carries a potential jail sentence of more than a year.
- Would also require employees who engage in egregious misconduct to repay their bonuses.

### **Cutting Frivolous Spending on Government Official Portraits**

Joined a bipartisan group of senators to reintroduce the Eliminating Government-Funded Oil-Painting (EGO) Act of 2017.

• Bill would ban taxpayer funds from being used for extravagant oil paintings of the president, vice president, cabinet members, and members of Congress.

### Ensuring Transparency, Oversight of Taxpayer-Funded Payments

Introduced the Judgment Fund Transparency and Terrorism Financing Prevention Act with Senators James Lankford (R-Okla.), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.).

- This bill provides much-needed oversight of the U.S. Treasury Department's Judgment Fund while also prohibiting taxpayer-funded payments to state-sponsors of terrorism.
- Currently, the Judgment Fund is allowed to allocate unlimited amounts of taxpayer dollars, with little oversight, to cover government liability.

### INTRODUCED BUILD USA INFRASTRUCTURE ACT MODELED ON NEBRASKA SUCCESS

- Seeks to address the near-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund without raising taxes on Americans.
- Would give states greater flexibility and control over infrastructure funding.
- Based on innovative, long-term approaches to solve transportation funding challenges developed in the Nebraska Unicameral and currently supporting Nebraska infrastructure.

### DISTRICT CHAMPIONING TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

- Introduced a bipartisan amendment with Senator Booker (D-N.J.) to create an advisory committee on human trafficking within the Department of Transportation.
- The Senate passed resolution designating September 2017 as School Bus Safety Month.
- Reauthorization of the Maritime Administration was included in the 2017 NDAA. This provision included important reforms to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy to improve the safety of midshipmen against sexual assault and sexual harassment during Sea Year.

#### LED BIPARTISAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BILL PASSED BY SENATE TO KEEP FAMILIES HEALTHY AND SAFE

- Many state and local governments with limited resources face difficulties meeting Clean Water Act requirements for storm water and wastewater updates.
- Nebraskans in the Omaha metro area know the burdens of expensive, unfunded EPA mandates that result in higher utility bills.
- The Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act, passed by the Senate, would provide local communities with increased flexibility and more autonomy when complying with requirements when updating water infrastructure projects.

### CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE
ON SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION
AND
MERCHANT MARINE
INFRASTRUCTURE,
SAFETY, AND
SECURITY

JURISDICTION
SAFETY OF THE
TRAVELING PUBLIC



RELIABILITY AND
EFFCIENCY
OF AMERICA'S FREIGHT
AND PASSENGER
TRANSPORTATION
NETWORK



OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL
AGENCIES INVOLVING
COMMERCIAL TRUCKS
AND BUSES, RAIL,
PIPELINE SAFETY,
MARITIME SHIPPING
AND PORTS, SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION
SECURITY PROGRAMS,
AND TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH.



### TECHNOLOGY

### ADVOCATING FOR RURAL BROADBAND

Led a bipartisan group of 56 senators in a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging the agency to take additional steps to reform its Universal Service Fund. Such steps would continue advancing broadband deployment in rural areas, making broadband more accessible and affordable for Americans in these communities.

### RETURNING STATES' RIGHTS FOR SENSIBLE OVERSIGHT

Introduced the bipartisan Preserving State Commission (PSC) Oversight Act. The bill would reinforce existing law and ensure that states have primary authority to determine which carriers participate in the FCC universal service Lifeline program, which provides phone and broadband services to Americans who cannot otherwise afford it.

### ENSURING BETTER ACCESS TO 911 EMERGENCY SERVICES

In 2013, Kari Hunt died following an attack in her hotel room and her 9-year-old daughter could not reach a 911 dispatcher from the hotel phone for help. Senator Fischer reintroduced the Kari's Law Act, which would require multiline telephone systems (MLTS), commonly used in hotels and offices, to be able to directly dial 911 without an access code – such as an extra "9" or "1." The full Senate approved Kari's Law this year.

### CONTINUED LEADERSHIP ON THE "INTERNET OF THINGS"

Reintroduced the Developing and Growing the Internet of Things (DIGIT) Act, which would support continued innovations for the internet-connected devices that make up the Internet of Things (IoT). IoT technologies enhance telehealth services, boost agricultural productivity, improve energy efficiency, and optimize manufacturing processes, to name just a few applications.

The DIGIT Act would convene a working group of federal and private entity stakeholders to provide recommendations to Congress that encourage the growth of the IoT and identify barriers to its advancement.

The DIGIT Act passed the Senate in August.

Hosted a roundtable discussion with Nebraska stakeholders, government officials, and industry experts to explore the relationship between the Internet of Things and agriculture.

### PROTECTING NEBRASKANS FROM SCAMS

Reintroduced the bipartisan Spoofing Prevention Act of 2017 to close legal loopholes permitting the practice of "spoofing," which uses deliberate falsification of telephone numbers and/or names through Caller-ID. This makes it appear as though a phone call is from a nearby location or someone known.

The bill, which would help stop this practice, passed the Senate in August. Joined a bipartisan group of senators to introduce the Stop Online Booking Scams Act. This bill would protect consumers from illegitimate third-party websites that trick consumers into thinking they are making reservations directly with hotels, often resulting in hidden fees or fake confirmation reservations.

### RESTORING HOPE Building off of the 21st Century Cures Act, passed by Congress last year, Senator Fischer cosponsored the Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act, named after an advocate of the legislation who fought and lost Cosponsored the bipartisan University of Nebraska her battle with ALS, also known Palliative Care and Hospice Medical Center as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Education and Training Act. Nebraska Medicine The bill, passed by the Senate in August, would give The bill would increase Americans facing terminal education, training, and incentives for physicians illnesses the right to try experimental medicines before providing palliative and those treatments receive hospice care. approval from the Food

By expanding and improving care for patients in hospice and those being treated for serious illness, the bill would provide comfort to patients and their families facing illnesses like cancer or Alzheimer's.

### NEBRASKANS NEED RELIEF FROM OBAMACARE

Supported repealing Obamacare and replacing it with policies that move our country in the right direction.

- According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, premiums in Nebraska increased 153 percent from 2013-2017.
- CoOportunity collapsed, leaving 80,000
   Nebraskans to face tough decisions about their insurance coverage.
- In 2014, over 47,000 Nebraskans paid an Obamacare individual mandate tax penalty.
- Nebraska has only one insurer offering individual plans.

BOLSTERING MEDICAL INNOVATION

and Drug Administration.

Voted for legislation, which is now public law, that will speed up the Food and Drug Administration's review of safe drugs and medical devices.

The bill includes a provision to encourage medical device development for children.

# WORKING ASKA FOR 1996

### Commemorating 150 Years of "The Good Life"

Introduced a Senate Resolution that honors the historic milestone in our state's history.

This resolution celebrates our rich history, the exciting present we are building, and the brighter future we will have in our next 150 years.



### Supporting Nebraska's Rural Air Service Programs

Led a bipartisan group of senators in a letter to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao highlighting concerns about the administration's proposed cuts to the Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

Encouraged Secretary Chao to continue working with Congress to ensure continued support for aviation services in our nation's rural communities.

Following an order from Department of Transportation to terminate EAS service in Scottsbluff and Kearney, led a letter with other Nebraska delegation members in support of continued EAS funding for those communities.



President Trump nominated Steve Grasz of Omaha to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in August, following recommendations from Senators Fischer and Sasse.



Steve Grasz exemplifies the qualities the American people seek in a judge: keen intellect, even judicial temperament, and steadfast commitment to the rule of law. He has bipartisan support from the people who know him best: Nebraskans.

In December 2017, the Senate confirmed Steve Grasz to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.



### Helping Communities Rebuild After Devastating Storms

Led the Nebraska Delegation in a letter to President Trump outlining Nebraska's request for a federal disaster declaration. Their request comes as a result of storms, which hit the state from June 12-17, 2017.

The inclement weather resulted in more than \$13,780,024 worth of damage across Nebraska.

Approval of the disaster declaration made federal assistance available to areas affected by the storm.



### TAXREFORM

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT:

### **RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES**

- o Lowers tax rates so Americans can keep more of their hard-earned money.
- o Tax brackets: 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, 37%
- o Nearly doubles the standard deduction, protecting the first \$24,000 married couples earn, and the first \$12,000 individuals earn, from federal taxes.
- Continues to allow Americans to take a combined state/local property, sales, and/or income tax deduction of up to \$10,000.
- Expands the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child. The tax credit is fully refundable up to \$1,400 per child. A family with two kids will be able to keep up to \$4,000 more dollars every year.
- Eliminates Obamacare's individual mandate penalty tax.
- Only 28 percent of Nebraskans itemize their taxes. Tax reform will move that total to less than 10 percent nationwide. For those who do itemize, mortgage interest, charitable contributions, and medical expenses will still be deductible.
- Deductions for things like student loan interest and teacher expenses will be preserved as well.
- The adoption tax credit is preserved, tuition waivers for graduate students remain tax free, and retirement savings plans remain tax-advantaged.

### **UNLEASHING SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH**

- Provides a 20% tax deduction for most small businesses.
- · Allows businesses to fully write off new investments for five years.

### **KEEPING AMERICA COMPETITIVE GLOBALLY**

o Lowers the corporate tax rate to 21% so corporations can stay competitive in the global economy.

Modernizes the U.S. tax system to make it easier for businesses to bring home foreign earnings to invest in growing jobs and wages.

A PRODUCT OF...
70 COMMITTEE HEARINGS
5 BIPARTISAN WORKING GROUPS

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